

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 168840

EXDIS, MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

JOINT STATE DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MPOL

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE ISSUES

REFS: A. MANILA 7863, B. MANILA 9449, C. STATE 147355,
D. MANILA 10188, E. MANILA 346

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1. WE AGREE THAT DISCUSSIONS OF OPERATIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO MANAGEMENT OF THE BASES UNDER EXISTING MBA CAN TAKE PLACE APART FROM FORMAL BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THE KINDS OF ISSUES MENTIONED BY MARCOS (REFS A AND B) FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION, E.G., SMUGGLING, WATERSHED PROTECTION AND BASE SECURITY, ARE APPROPRIATE MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY

THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD AND WE WISH TO AVOID DILUTION OF THIS EXISTING MDB MECHANISM THROUGH SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS. HOWEVER, MARCOS APPARENTLY DESIRES TO ADD A POLITICAL DIMENSION TO DISCUSSIONS ON CERTAIN OF THESE ISSUES THROUGH PARTICIPATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE III OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AS THE MECHANISM FOR POLITICAL CONSULTATION ON SECURITY MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. IN VIEW OF PHILIPPINE HESITATION REGARDING THE MDB ROLE AND OF INGLES' APPARENT DETERMINATION TO REMAIN INVOLVED AT LEAST IN THE SECURITY ISSUES, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO TALKS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN CHARGE STULL AND INGLES IN THEIR ROLES AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. WE CLEARLY EXPECT THAT ONCE BROAD DISCUSSION OF AN APPROVED TOPIC SUCH AS SECURITY HAS TAKEN PLACE, IT WILL BE REFERRED TO THE MDB (EITHER AN EXISTING COMMITTEE OR AN AD HOC GROUP WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE EMBASSY AND DFA REPRESENTATIVES) FOR DETAILED EXAMINATION AND APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTATION.

3. WITH REGARD TO SUBSTANCE, WE BELIEVE CAUTION IS REQUIRED. OPERATIONAL ISSUES MENTIONED BY MARCOS ARE LEGITIMATE TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MDB AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SINCE THEY INVOLVE QUESTIONS OF IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXISTING MBA. CHANGES
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TO, OR DEPARTURE FROM, TEXT OF MBA ITSELF, HOWEVER, ARE OUTSIDE PURVIEW OF MDB AND DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE PARTICULAR TOPICS SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION OUR VIEWS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. BASE SECURITY: FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH CINCPAC, CHARGE IS AUTHORIZED TO ELABORATE ON PROPOSALS WHICH U.S. INTENDS TO PRESENT TO MDB CONTAINED PARA 2 REF C TO INGLES AS SUGGESTED IN REF D. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON EXAMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH MDB, NOT ON NEGOTIATION OF BROAD BASE SECURITY QUESTION.

B. SMUGGLING: U.S. SHOULD AWAIT PHILIPPINE INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE. WE ARE WARY OF MARCOS' JUNE 20 STATEMENT TO STULL (PARA 2 REF B) THAT INFORMATION ON LACK OF PHILIPPINE ENFORCEMENT OF CUSTOMS REGULATIONS NEVER REACHED HIS LEVEL; HE DISCUSSED THIS SAME TOPIC WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN JANUARY 7 (PARA 4, REF E).

C. WATERSHED PROTECTION: AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, U.S. AND

PHILIPPINE POSITIONS IN BASE NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTROL OF WATERSHEDS DIFFER WIDELY. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY PHILIPPINE PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE SECURITY OF THE WATERSHEDS AND THEY MAY WISH TO INCLUDE SUCH PROPOSALS IN THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE SECURITY ISSUE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD WISH TO REVIEW WITH CARE ANY PROPOSAL THAT MIGHT LATER IMPACT ADVERSELY ON OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE IN BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. HANDLING OF OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS IN ABOVE MANNER STILL LEAVES THE BROADER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION DIRECTLY WITH MARCOS. THESE ISSUES INCLUDE THE MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMITMENT AND THE MANNER OF OUR APPROACH TO CHANGES TO THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT ITSELF, INCLUDING COMPENSATION.

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WE BELIEVE THAT ISSUES OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE BEST DISCUSSED WITH MARCOS BY A SPECIAL EMISSARY OR EMISSARIES OR BY CHARGE/AMBASSADOR AS WE MAY DETERMINE. WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR SENDING SPECIAL EMISSARY IMMEDIATELY. MANILA VISIT BY HOLBROOKE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR ASEAN CONSULTATIONS OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MARCOS IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEN APPEAR PROPITIOUS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY AND CINPAC COMMENTS ON ABOVE APPROACH.

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